

REMARKS

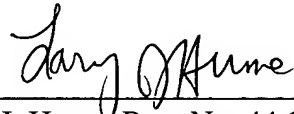
Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-5 and 9 have been amended to avoid multiple dependency and to improve their form, and dependent claims 10-12 have been added. No new matter has been added by any claim amendment or new claim.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22193-00007-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Larry J. Hume, Reg. No. 44,163
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant